# Decision Making and Consent Policy

## Policy

*futures in sight* presumes that people with disability have capacity to make decisions. This presumption underpins all of our work alongside people disability and their families.

We are committed to support decision making for everyone, be that with the person with disability, their family or other decision making supporters.

We work together with each person we support by providing information in a timely and accessible manner.

## **Scope**

futures in sight partners, contractors, volunteer and Advisory Panel

## Legislation

* NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2015
* Guardianship Act 1987 (NSW)

## Principles

*futures in sight* requires people associated with the company to operate from the following principles:

* Every person is presumed to have capacity to make their own decisions
* A presumption of capacity applies each time a person is required to make a decision about a new issue or in a new situation
* *futures in sight* recognizes that many people we support require good support to make decisions, including accessible information and time to think about the options and choices, and that they rely on decision making supporters to assist them to develop their skills to make decisions
* *futures in sight* supports decision making supporters to have what they need to support decision making including high expectations, strong commitment and a tool box of strategies ready to be tailored to each individual and to each decision

## Procedure

In accordance with *futures in sight* principles, *futures in sight* assists people to sort decisions[[1]](#footnote-1) into:

1. self-generated decisions,
2. shared decisions and
3. substitute decisions.

This differentiation provides guidance as to the nature of support required for decision making.

1. For Self generated decisions:

People are provide with information and experience that enable them to act on their own behalf taking into account consequences and constraints.

1. For shared decisions:

*futures in sight* provides information and experience that enables the person (with the assistance of their identified allies) to express their will and preference and if necessary, interpret these. futures in sight and allies can also assist the person by taking into account consequences and constraints.

1. For substitute decisions:

*futures in sight* provides information and experience that enables the person (with the assistance of their identified family members/allies) to express their will and preference and if necessary, interpret these. futures in sight and identified family members/allies also assist the person to take into account consequences and constraints. In addition, futures in sight and identified family members/allies may moderate a person’s will, preferences and rights if there are likely to be harmful consequences and the person does not have the ability to appreciate these.

*futures in sight* understands the dynamics and processes of supports for decision making and assist family members/allies to assist their family member to contribute to and make decisions to the maximum extent possible.

In the case of disagreement about the will and preferences of the person in relation to a major lifestyle decision (where a person lives, their use of services) a legally appointed guardian with specific a specific decision making function may be required.

**Supporting decision making about futures in sight**

*futures in sight* encourages people we support and their family members/allies identified to

* Be informed and involved in the activities of futures in sight
* Be involved in meetings
* Assist in the development of futures in sight through various processes
* Become involved in futures in sight

***futures in sight* supports people we support to take part by:**

* providing information about futures in sight
* inviting members’ input in the development of *futures in sight’s* strategic plan, reviews, annual feedback

**Review**

This policy will be reviewed on a two-yearly basis.

However, if at any time the legislative, policy or funding environment is so altered that the policy is no longer appropriate in its current form, the policy shall be reviewed immediately and amended accordingly.

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| Signed by all Partners |  |  |  |
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1. Bigby, C., *Support for decision making, a practice framework, 2015* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)